Working conditions of child artists

1543. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has set up a Committee to look into the working conditions of child artists, performing in teleserials, reality shows and advertisements;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the Committee;

(c) whether the Ministry has also asked the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) to look into the condition of children participating in such programmes; and

(d) if so, the reaction of NCPCR in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights has constituted a Committee to look into the issue of children's participation in TV reality shows and make suggestions.

Child marriages

1544. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that scores of child marriages took place unhindered in the country, particularly in places like Rajasthan's interior reaches on the occasion of Akha Teej, in keeping with the past tradition;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) and (d) the action Government has taken to probe and prosecute the culprits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The problem of child marriage still exists in some parts of the country. As reported by National Crime Record Bureau, 99, 96 and 78 cases were registered under Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 during 2006, 2007 and 2008 respectively in the country. As per information received from the State Government of Rajasthan, the number of cases registered relating to child marriage were 1, 3 and 3 during the year 2006, 2007 and 2008 respectively.

(c) In order to prohibit child marriages and to make the provisions of the Act more effective and punishment more stringment for offenders, a new legislation "The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006" (No. 6 of 2007) has been notified in the Gazettee of India on 11th January, 2007 and the said Act has been enforced *w.e.f.* 1.11.2007. The Act provides appointment of Child Marriage Prohibition Officers in each State/UT. Also, awareness generation and advocacy measures which are continuously being undertaken by the Ministry of Women and Child Development will help in prohibiting child marriages.